SUDOKU ALPHA

QUICK **A5311**

8	5					3		
		6						
	7				4	9		6
		1						
9	8		1	7			5	3
			6	9		8		4
			7				6	
1				5	6	7	3	
		2	3	4				

TRICKY **B5311**

5	3			2				
4			9	7	8		3	
	7		1					
		7	8					
	1	9						
				1	2			8
						5		
		2				1	9	
			6	5	9	3		

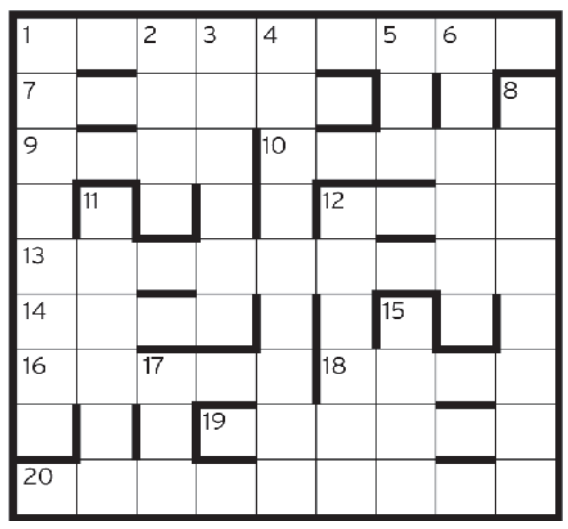
To solve this puzzle each 3x3 box, each row and each column must contain all the numbers 1 to 9. While the rules may be simple, there are numerous strategies to help you solve sudoku. For hints and information visit www.sudoku.org.uk.

Created by Peter Ritmeester (C) PZZL.com

CROSSWORD

ACROSS

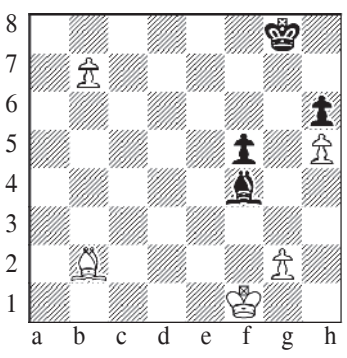
1 Little by little (9)
7 Myth (6)
9 Brother of Cain (4)
10 Long low sofa (5)
12 Pieces (4)
13 Gory pitch (anag.) (9)
14 Duty or burden (4)
16 Native New Zealander (5)
18 Small ornamental case (4)
19 Empty a suitcase (6)
20 Supposedly lucky item (9)



DOWN

1 Eye disease (8)
2 Grew older (4)
3 Holds up (6)
4 Emphasise (9)
5 Toilet (informally) (3)
6 Hate (6)
8 Engaged in an industrial dispute (26)
11 Small European country (6)
12 Arm muscle (6)
15 US state (4)
17 Paddle (3)

CHESS



WHITE TO PLAY
HINT: WIN A PAWN.

Solution:
1. Bc1! Be5 2. Bxh6! if 1. ... Bxc1, simply 2. b8=Qch
[Mominova-Khotenashvili '14].

TARGET

HOW many words of four letters or more can you make from the letters shown here?
In making a word, each letter may be used once only. Each must contain the centre letter and there must be at least one nine-letter word.
No plurals or verb forms ending in "s".

TODAY'S TARGET

Good 16;

Very good 24;

Excellent 32 (or more).

Solution monday.

YESTERDAY'S SOLUTIONS

DEPENDING

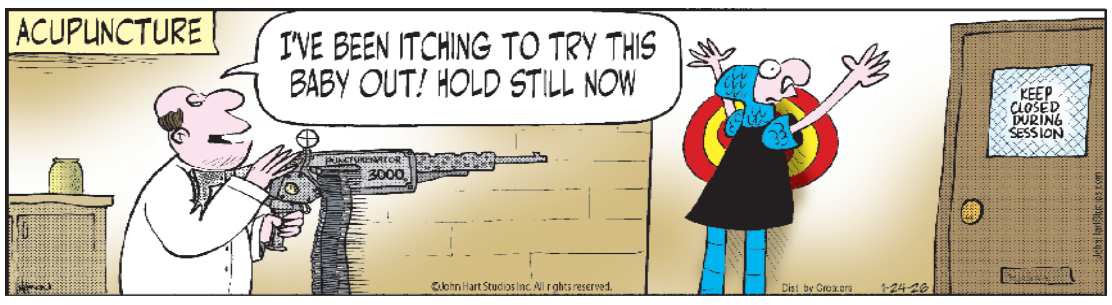
deed deep deign deigned denied depend DEPENDING died diene dine dined ding dinged dinned edge edged ended ending geed genned ginned indeed need needing pending penned pied pined pinged pinned

THE METRO FUNNIES

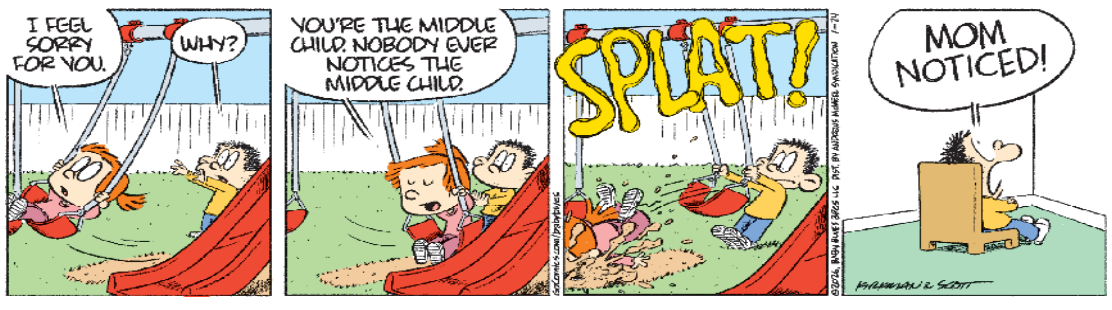
BIG NATE | BY LINCOLN PEIRCE

WHY THE LONG FACE, HON?
THE CHEER SQUAD DIDN'T LIKE ANY OF THE CHEERS I WROTE FOR THEM.
THEY CALLED THEM "TOO AGGRESSIVE."
HMM. LET'S TAKE A LOOK.
"WE'RE THE BOBCATS, WHITE AND BLUE. WE'LL PUT YOU IN THE I.C.U."
I.C.U. STANDS FOR "INTENSIVE CARE UNIT."
I GOT THAT.
Visit bignate.com

THE WIZARD OF ID | BY BRANT PARKER AND JOHNNY HART


ACUPUNCTURE
I'VE BEEN ITCHING TO TRY THIS BABY OUT! HOLD STILL NOW
PUNCTURATOR 3000
KEEP CLOSED DURING SESSION
©John Hart Studios Inc. All rights reserved.
Dist. by Creators
1-24-26

BABY BLUES



WEATHER

Sunset & Sunrise

	Hyderabad	Islamabad	Karachi	Lahore	Peshawar	Quetta
Sunset	06:05pm	05:33pm	06:11pm	05:31pm	05:38pm	06:07pm
Sunrise	07:11am	07:06am	07:16am	06:58am	07:13am	07:22am

Three Day Forecast

	Today				Tomorrow				Day After		
	Min	Max	Outlook	Humidity%	Min	Max	Outlook		Min	Max	Outlook
Faisalabad	5	16	Mostly Cloudy	58	6	19	Partly Cloudy		9	16	Cloudy
Hyderabad	7	21	Partly Cloudy	32	8	21	Partly Cloudy		9	21	Partly Cloudy
Islamabad	6	14	Partly Cloudy	73	7	19	Partly Cloudy		9	15	Cloudy
Lahore	5	16	Partly Cloudy	53	6	19	Mostly Cloudy		9	16	Cloudy
Multan	4	15	Mostly Cloudy	61	7	19	Partly Cloudy		8	17	Cloudy
Peshawar	4	14	Mostly Cloudy	69	6	18	Partly Cloudy		8	16	Cloudy
Quetta	-3	6	Mostly Cloudy	58	0	9	Partly Cloudy		-1	4	Snow

Temperature estimates are internationally sourced and may differ from local estimates.

HELP

EMERGENCIES

Police Help	15, 99212652-53, 99212634
CPLC	1102, 35662222
Fire Brigade	16, 99215007, 99215008.
Bomb Disposal	99212674
KE Complaints	118
Telephone complaints	1218
Railway Inquiry	99213565-66
PCAA Flight Inquiry	99071284, 99071259
	99071265, 114

HOSPITALS

Abbasi Shaheed	99260400-09
Civil Hospital	99215740, 9215960
Jinnah Hospital	99201300-99201301
NICVD	99201271-6
Aga Khan Hospital	34930051
Medicare Hospital	021-111-001-786
Kharadar Gen Hospital	32510113-16
Indus Hospital	35112709
Tabba	36811841, 111844844
Ziauddin Hospital	35862937-9, 36648237-9
Kiran Cancer Hospital	99261601-04
Liaquat National	111-456-456, 34939615
Memon Medical	34691147 — 54
A.O. Clinic	36685564, 3668550-64
Baqai Hospital	36618396, 36618398
Holy Family Hospital	32258994, 32258991
Patel Hospital	111174174
South City Hospital	35374072
Kidney Centre Institute	35661000-10
Karwan-e-Hayat	021-111534111
Usman Memorial	021-36310311-15

AMBULANCE

Edhi	115, 32310066, 32310077
Chhipa	1020
SIEHS/Rescue	1122
St.John	32250500, 32250600
Red Crescent	35306227, 35306228

BLOOD BANK

Fatmid	32225284, 32258656
Husaini	32238405-08
PWA (Civil)	99215740, 99215959

WORD GAME

By Kathleen Saxe

▼ TODAY'S WORD
SOPHOMORIC

(SOPHOMORIC: sof-MOR-ik: Immature.)

Average mark 27 words
Time limit 55 minutes

Can you find 47 or more words in SOPHOMORIC?

The list will be published tomorrow.

SOLUTIONS

▼ YESTERDAY'S WORD – TRANSIT

taint	anti	stat
tarn	artist	statin
tart	astir	stint
tint	saint	stir
titan	sari	strain
train	sarin	strait
trait	satin	stria
trans	sitar	
tsar	snit	
rain	stain	
rani	stair	
rant	star	
riant	start	

RULES OF THE GAME:

1. Words must be of four or more letters.
2. Words that acquire four letters by the addition of "s," such as "bats" or "dies," are not allowed.
3. Additional words made by adding a "d" or an "s" may not be used. For example, if "bake" is used, "baked" or "bakes" are not allowed, but "bake" and "baking" are admissible.
4. Proper nouns, slang words, or vulgar or sexually explicit words are not allowed.

METRO EVENTS

PLAYS

Hota Hai Shab-o-Roz Tamasha, a theatre play, is staged as part of the Awami Theatre Festival, at Auditorium II, Arts Council of Pakistan, at 6pm.

A play titled *Ulta Shulta* is staged as part of the Awami Theatre Festival, at Auditorium II, Arts Council of Pakistan, at 8pm.

BOOK LAUNCH

Naql Makaniyan aur Be Sarosamaaniya Kab sey Kab Tak, a book by Brigadier (Retd) Sayyad Karar Hussain Abadi, is launched at Haseen Moin Hall, Ahmed Shah Building, Arts Council of Pakistan, at 3pm.

MUSHAIRA

The Corporate Pakistan Group organises a mushaira in honour of Dr Pirzada Qasim Raza Siddiqui at Mohatta Palace at 8pm.

A monthly mushaira in memory of Hasrat Mohani, Hafeez Jalandhri, Zameer Jafri, Jameeluddin Aali, Ustad Bukhari, Ahmed Faraz and Anwer Pirzado, is held at Aiwan Josh, B-160, Block 1, Gulistan-i-Jauhar, Arts Council, East at 5:30pm.

'Sham-i-Qehqaha', a comic family mushaira, is held at We Trust, Block 5, Gulshan-i-Iqbal, at 5pm.

HOROSCOPE

By Georgia Nicols

ARIES | March 21-April 19

**** This is a laid-back day. Enjoy schmoozing with friends and groups. You might be chosen to head a committee or a club. Make your own choice about whether to go out and get involved, or relax at home. Tonight: You're in charge.

TAURUS | April 20-May 20

*** Even though you make a great impression on everyone, there's a strong likelihood that you want to kick back and relax today. You might even hide or keep a low profile. However, you will feel benevolent and want to help someone in need. Tonight: Privacy.

GEMINI | May 21-June 20

**** Even though this is a laid-back day, you're curious to explore new ideas, meet new people and learn new things. A day trip might appeal to you. Some will reach out to a friend (or a member of a group) to help them. Choose your pleasure. Tonight: Friendships.

CANCER | June 21-July 22

*** This is a quiet, easygoing day; however, you are high-viz, which means people notice you more than usual. Some people will know personal details about your private life, which is some-thing you should know in case you have to do some damage control. Tonight: You're admired.

LEO | July 23-Aug. 22

**** Today you might be involved more than usual with friends, spouses or partners. You'll have an urge to do something different, perhaps travel or a day trip. The overall feeling for most people today is to kick back and relax. Don't push yourself. Do what pleases you. Tonight: Explore!

VIRGO | Aug. 23-Sept. 22

*** You've been busting your buns working hard with your job, and on behalf of your family and other demands on your life as this new year begins. Today is the perfect day to take a breath and relax. Do something to restore your energy. You feel generous to others today. Tonight: Check your finances.

LIBRA | Sept. 23-Oct. 22

*** This is an easygoing day, and because the Moon is opposite your sign, you will have to be accommodating and cooperative with others. This is no biggie. It simply means you have to go along to get along and not make waves -- unless someone steps on your toes, of course! Tonight: Cooperate.

SCORPIO | Oct. 23-Nov. 21

*** Although you have a strong focus on home and family right now because of family discussions, home repairs and renovations, today you might be more involved with your health or a pet. On the whole, it's a good day to lounge and socialize or dabble in your favorite hobby. Tonight: Work and get better organized.

SAGITTARIUS | Nov. 22-Dec. 21

**** This is a leisurely yet busy day filled with opportunities to socialize and enjoy the company of siblings, relatives and daily contacts. You might enjoy reading, writing and talking to others. You will also enjoy the beauty of your daily surroundings. Romance holds promise! Tonight: Schmooze.

CAPRICORN | Dec. 22-Jan. 19

*** Grab every chance to relax at home and enjoy conversations with others, especially female relatives. Your discussions might focus on money issues, purchases or how to boost your income. These possibilities exist for you. It's a good day to goof off. Tonight: Relax at home.

AQUARIUS | Jan. 20-Feb. 18

**** It's unusual that right now the Sun, Mercury, Venus, Mars and Pluto are all in AQUARIUS. This is why you will feel energized and eager to communicate, which is a good idea, because you will be charming and able to project yourself with pizzazz! Enjoy schmoozing and taking it easy today. Tonight: A conversation with someone.

PISCES | Feb. 19-Mar. 20

*** This is a good day to lounge around at home and do exactly what pleases you. Take a nap, or take a long lunch if you can. Don't push yourself too much. It's a relaxing, laid-back day. Tonight: Check your money and belongings.

The stars show the kind of day you'll have: 5-Dynamic; 4-Positive; 3-Average; 2-so-so; 1-Difficult

CONTRACT BRIDGE

Bidding Quiz

By Steve Becker

The vanishing trick

North dealer.
Both sides vulnerable.

NORTH
♠ Q 10 4
♥ A K 8
♦ A 9 7 5 3
♣ K 9

WEST
♠ 9 7 6 3
♥ --
♦ K Q J 6
♣ J 8 5 3 2

EAST
♠ J 8 5
♥ Q J 6 2
♦ 10 8 4 2
♣ Q 4

SOUTH
♠ A K 2
♥ 10 9 7 5 4 3
♦ --
♣ A 10 7 6

The bidding:

North	East	South	West
1 NT	Pass	3 ♥	Pass
4 ♥	Pass	6 ♥	

Opening lead -- king of diamonds.

It is a fundamental principle of declarer play that if a contract can be made only when the adverse cards are divided in a specific way, declarer must assume that they are divided that way.

For example, consider this deal where declarer made a slam even though East had two seemingly sure trump tricks.

South ruffed the diamond lead and played a heart to the king, on which West showed out. Declarer's only chance to avoid two trump losers now was to find a way to endplay East. This could not be achieved unless East had the appropriate distribution for the projected end position to be reached.

South therefore had to assume that East would follow to the A-K-Q of spades and A-K of clubs as they were cashed, since otherwise the situation was hopeless. He also had to assume East had precisely four diamonds, as there was no distribution that East could have, except 3-4-4-2, that would allow the slam to be made.

So, at trick three, South cashed the ace of diamonds, discarding a club, and then ruffed a diamond. This was followed by the A-K-Q of spades and another diamond ruff. Next, he cashed the A-K of clubs, producing this position with the lead in dummy:

North
♥ A 8
♦ 9

West Immaterial

East
♥ Q J 6

South
♥ 10 9
♣ 10

When the diamond nine was now led, East was helpless whether he ruffed high or low. Whatever he did, South would win two of the last three tricks.

Tomorrow: A very unusual play.

YESTERDAY'S CROSSWORD SOLUTIONS

ACROSS

1 Polish off
7 Scar
8 Refer
10 Fly
11 Raisin
13 Intention
14 Hot dog
16 Sam
18 Ideas
19 Asia
20 Sunscreen.

DOWN

1 Psoriasis
2 Octane
3 Irks
4 Her
5 Offside
6 Frying pan
8 Ruinous
9 Bitumen
12 Hoodie
15 Tsar
17 Was.

YESTERDAY'S SUDOKU SOLUTIONS

Quick — A5310

6	8	5	7	4	9	1	2	3
3	1	4	5	8	2	9	7	6
7	9	2	1	6	3	8	5	4
2	7	9	4	5	8	3	6	1
1	5	6	9	3	7	2	4	8
8	4	3	6	2	1	5	9	7
9	6	1	3	7	5	4	8	2
5	2	7	8	1	4	6	3	9
4	3	8	2	9	6	7	1	5

Tricky — B5310

1	5	6	3	2	4	8	9	7
3	9	2	8	7	1	6	5	4
7	4	8	5	6	9	3	2	1
6	2	5	4	1	7	9	8	3
9	1	4	6	8	3	5	7	2
8	3	7	9	5	2	1	4	6
4	8	3	7	9	6	2	1	5
5	7	1	2	3	8	4	6	9
2	6	9	1	4	5	7	3	8